

# PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT

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EIGHT CONFIRMED CASES of phenylketonuria (PKU) were found among the 250,000 to 270,000 children screened since 1957 by 41 local health departments. All were white although non-white attendance at child health conferences in California was estimated to be more than 20 per cent.

The yield of less than one case in 30,000 tested is low, especially when contrasted with the one in 10,000 being reported in the Guthrie Test field trials sponsored by the U.S. Children's Bureau.

Whether the discrepancy is due to differences in the populations screened, to the techniques involved or to the manner in which the procedures were conducted cannot be definitely stated at this point. While the scope and depth of this survey were quite limited, the general findings do indicate that more definitive examination of the procedures in PKU screening programs are needed.

Monthly reports to the public on radioactive fallout in California are now required by a law adopted by the Legislature this year. The new law assigns specific responsibility to the department for monitoring radioactive materials in the environment and requires the results of such monitoring to be made public to news media at least once a month.

While the department has not routinely reported fallout activity, it has for the past several years made public any unusual incidents of radioactivity in water, rain, milk, and other foods.

Levels of radioactive fallout in California have been and continue to be far below those at which consideration would necessarily be given to protective public health action.

As 1963 comes to a close, it can be safely and proudly said that this year we had the lowest number of poliomyelitis cases ever recorded in our state.

By mid-December, only 16 cases of paralytic poliomyelitis had been reported, compared with 74 in 1962 and 78 in 1961. There has been one death, compared with five and four respectively in the two preceding years.

The medical profession and the many community organizations which conducted the successful K.O. Polio campaigns deserve major commendation for their contribution to this outstanding record.

The seventh annual Air Pollution Medical Research Conference will be held February 10-11 in the Los Angeles County Medical Association Building. The Conference will feature reports on experimental exposures of human subjects to a variety of pollutants.

Sessions will also be held on biochemical and cellular responses to air pollutants, the mechanisms of infiltrative lung disease, and surveys of respiratory diseases which may be associated with air pollutant exposures.

